



NLE 2022 April Newsletter

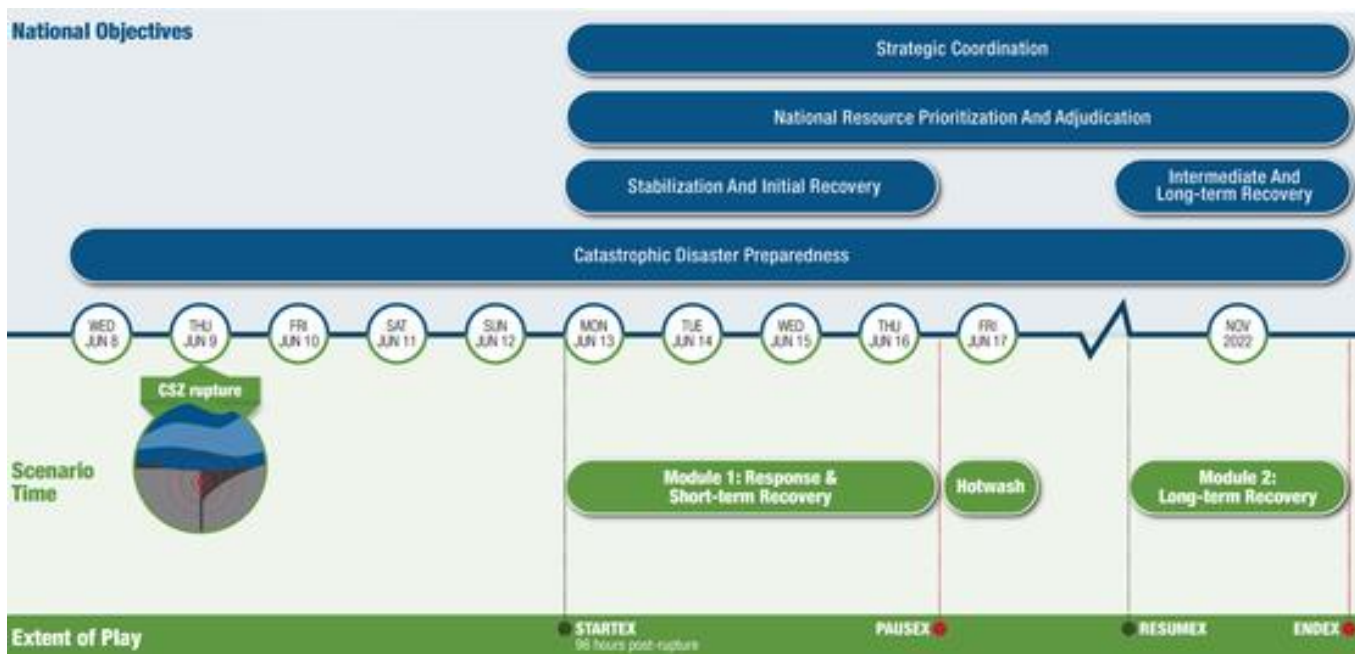
The National Level Exercise (NLE) is excited to launch its first NLE 2022 Newsletter. Planning and conducting the NLE is a complex effort that requires robust collaboration across the whole community – thank you for joining us to plan this exercise! The NLE Newsletter will serve as a resource for the entire NLE planning community to assist with the design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning that will ultimately increase national preparedness over this two year timeline.

NLE Overview & Conduct Timeline

The National Level Exercise (NLE) is held every two years as part of the National Exercise Program to provide an opportunity for all levels of government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and community groups to test capabilities, evaluate policies and plans, familiarize personnel with roles and responsibilities and foster meaningful interaction and communication across the nation. Scenarios for the NLE range from natural disasters to manmade attacks and address the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the nation.

NLE 2022 will examine the ability of all levels of government, private industry, and NGOs to respond to and recover from a large rupture along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) fault line that runs along the Pacific coastal states. The scenario includes subsequent tsunamis, aftershocks, and a Spill of National Significance (SONS) caused by the initial disaster. Functional and full-scale exercise play in NLE 2022 will occur primarily at the state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT), and federal levels within Idaho, Oregon, and Washington states located within FEMA Region 10, as well as at Federal Departments' and Agencies' headquarters locations in Washington, D.C.

Below is the NLE 2022 conduct timeline that overlays the national objectives with the two modules of the exercise: Module 1 is focused on response and short-term recovery and Module 2 is focused on long-term



NLE 2022 Objectives

NLE 2022 will be guided by five national objectives, which will be codified in the NLE 2022 Exercise Directive. The Exercise Directive is being routed for final concurrence now and will be shared upon final signature from the FEMA Administrator. All organizations participating in NLE 2022 should design their exercise objectives and exercise play to support and align with the evaluation of these national objectives.

Objective 1: Catastrophic Disaster Preparedness

Build and sustain awareness of catastrophic disasters and build capability nationwide through planning, preparedness, and risk mitigation.

Objective 2: Stabilization and Initial Recovery

Assess the ability of all levels of government, in coordination with whole community partners, to rapidly determine impacts to communities and inform decisions for stabilization, critical infrastructure restoration, and initial recovery.

Objective 3: National Resource Prioritization and Adjudication

Examine the ability of all levels of government, the private sector, and international stakeholders to determine the availability of critical resources, prioritize limited resources, and deliver essential commodities, equipment, and services to support impacted communities during a catastrophic natural disaster.

Objective 4: Intermediate and Long-Term Recovery

Assess the ability of the whole community to identify intermediate recovery objectives, implement a recovery strategy, and integrate impactful mitigation towards long-term recovery solutions.

Objective 5: Strategic Coordination

Examine the ability of all levels of government to integrate activities across multiple coordination structures, make timely decisions, and consistently communicate those decisions to operators during the response to and recovery from a catastrophic natural disaster.

NLE 2022 Component Exercises Overview

NLE 2022 uses a common scenario and control environment built upon component exercises including FEMA Region 10's Cascadia Rising 2022, the U.S. Coast Guard's and Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SONS 2022, and U.S. Northern Command's Ardent Sentry exercises. Below are brief overviews of those exercises.

Cascadia Rising: Catastrophic 9.0m Cascadia Subduction Zone fault release that builds SLTT Emergency Operations Center (EOC)-to-EOC coordination capabilities.

Spill of National Significance (SONS): U.S. Coast Guard and EPA exercise that focuses on a severe spill that impacts public health and the environment requiring an extraordinarily complex response.

Ardent Sentry: Annual North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) exercise focused on Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

Recent Events	Upcoming Events
Idaho Initial Planning Meeting (IPM): March 11, 2021	NLE ESWG #3: May 13, 2021
Exercise Specific Working Group (ESWG) Kick off Meeting: March 17, 2021	Working Groups kick off in May 2021
Washington State IPM: March 18, 2021	NLE 2022 In Progress Review: July 14- 15, 2021
Region 10 IPM: March 25, 2021	
ESWG Meeting #2: April 13, 2021	
NLE 2022 IPM: April 21–22, 2021	

PrepToolkit

The site will be the central platform for the planning community to access key documents and to register for planning meetings.

Key planning documents that will be posted on the NLE 2022 PrepToolkit page include:

- NLE 2022 Placemat
- NLE 2022 Factsheets
- Working Group Slides / Takeaways
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PrepToolkit Registration

Creating a PrepToolkit account is a key step to staying connected with the NLE 2022 planning process. To create an account:

1. Go to: <https://preptoolkit.fema.gov/web/nle-2022>.
2. Click "Sign In" in the top right corner.
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4. Once your registration request has been vetted, you will receive a confirmation email.

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Working Groups Updates

The NLE 2022 Working Groups (WGs) will be stood up in May 2021 to kick off detailed exercise design and development. The graphic below captures the NLE 2022 WG structure. For more detailed information about the NLE 2022 WGs, please see the [WG Factsheet](#) on Preparedness Toolkit (PrepToolkit). In order to access the NLE 2022 WG Factsheet on PrepToolkit, please log into your NLE 2022 PrepToolkit account prior to clicking the hyperlink.

Please identify exercise planners from your organization that should be involved in NLE 2022 by filling out the WG survey via the QR code at the bottom of the Newsletter or by using this [link](#). Thank you!





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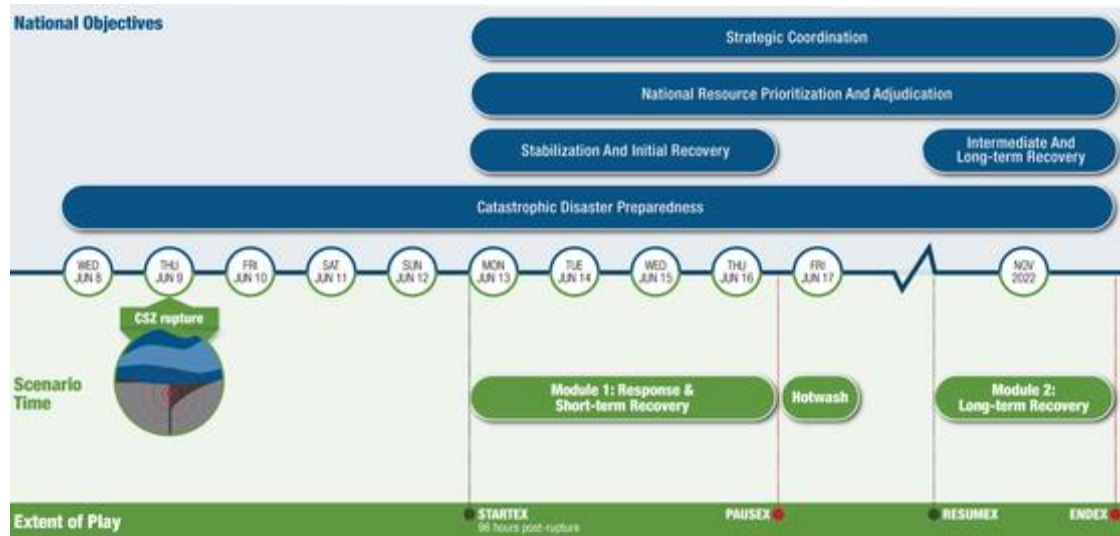
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Next Steps:

- Fill out the WG survey by going to the QR code at the bottom of this page
- Register for NLE 2022 PrepToolkit
- Read the [IPM Takeaways and Action Items Document](#) on the NLE 2022 PrepToolkit
- Volunteer for NLE 2022 WGs

Questions?

We want to hear from you!

Contact the NLE mailbox (nle@fema.dhs.gov)



Aim smart phone camera at QR Code to access the Working Group Survey link.

If you are unable to use the QR code, please follow this link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ewF1m9ywfx>



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